

South Dakota National Guard

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NEWS RELEASE:

National Guard shows Pierre mayor levee operations

Spc. Manda Walters
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota National Guard's Maj. Martin Yost, Task Force 147th operations officer, and Capt. Joe Hardin, 114th Fighter Wing detachment officer in charge, survey levees in and around Pierre with city mayor, Laurie Gill, June 10, 2011.

"The tour was set up to give the mayor an on-the-ground approach and show her what's been happening in the different areas," said Yost.

The on-the-ground approach included: visiting critical points and briefing the mayor on levee placement, in addition to providing background to Gill on the National Guard's levee security operations and the role of quick reaction forces.

"Our community sees these levees as a very good thing," said Gill. "Once the levees were complete I felt like the collective citizens let their breath out. We're very grateful to the quick response teams and what their mission is right now. We all understand that a breach would not be good and it is possible, so we must remain vigilant."

The National Guard, federal, state, city workers, along with Pierre residents continue to remain vigilant in monitoring the levee.

The 114th continues to patrol the levee 24-hours a day and is the first major step in the quick reaction force, said Yost.

"They know these levees like the back of their hands. If it's a little tiny drop of water or the plastic changing, they're the ones who really have eyes on the ground," said Yost.

"Every group that worked on this (levee) has all made a difference," said Gill. "We could not have done this without your help. We're so grateful for everything. Every phase, from the response, to the construction, to the maintenance; we're so grateful."



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PIERRE, S.D. -, City of Pierre Mayor, Laurie Gill, and South Dakota Army National Guard's Maj. Martin Yost, Task Force 147th operations officer, survey levees in and around Pierre June 10, 2011. Yost described to Gill levee placement, levee security operations and the role of quick reaction forces. Gill expressed concerns about the permanence of the levees, discussed their impact on city of Pierre and gratitude for the National Guard's role in flood preparations. (SDNG photo by Spc. Manda Walters)

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PIERRE, S.D. - City of Pierre Mayor, Laurie Gill, examines a map of Pierre as South Dakota Army National Guard's Maj. Martin Yost, Task Force 147th operations officer, points out areas of levee placement and quick reaction force critical points during a tour of the levees in and around Pierre, June 10, 2011. Gill expressed concerns about the permanence of the levees, discussed their impact on the city of Pierre and gratitude for the National Guard's role in flood preparations. (SDNG photo by Spc. Manda Walters)



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PIERRE, S.D. - City of Pierre Mayor, Laurie Gill, along with Capt. Joe Hardin (driving), 114th Fighter Wing detachment officer in charge, and South Dakota Army National Guard's Maj. Martin Yost, Task Force 147th operations officer, and survey levees in and around Pierre, June 10, 2011. Yost and Hardin described to Gill levee placement, levee security operations, and the role of quick reaction forces. Gill expressed concerns about the permanence of the levees, discussed their impact on the city of Pierre and gratitude for the National Guard's role in flood preparations. (SDNG Photo by Spc. Manda Walters)

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